

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending. Claims 5, 13, 14, 20, 25, 33 and 34 are allowed. By this response, claims 1, 2, 6, 15, 16, 21 and 22 are amended. Reconsideration and allowance based upon the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

The Office Action objects to claim 6 due to a minor informality. In response, claim 6 has been amended to corrected formal informality. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 7-19, 15-17, 21-23 and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Mok (U.S. 6,008,986) and Twyford (U.S. 6,386,413); claims 4, 6, 18, 24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mok, Twyford and Batio (U.S. 5,949,643); claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mok, Twyford, Batio and Suga (U.S. 4,800,376); and claims 10-12 and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mok, Twyford and Ames (U.S. 4,787,040). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It is alleged in the Office Action that Mok and Twyford's teachings, when combined, read on the claimed features of independent claims 1, 15 and 21. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 15 and 21, as amended, recite features distinctive from the combination of Mok and Twyford.

Claims 1, 15 and 21 each have been amended to refer to the display means being mounted within an instrument panel of a vehicle and an operating means being within a position substantially flush to the instrument panel when in the first position, this being the position where the operating means faces the display and is not being used. Neither Mok or Twyford teach these features.

Mok teaches a laptop in which the keyboard is moveable in an alternative position. However, the laptop display is not mounted in a fixed position within the instrument panel of the vehicle. Further, the keyboard, operating portion of the laptop, is not substantially flush with an instrument panel. Essentially, the laptop does what laptops do best, that being they are portable and not fixed and especially not fixedly mounted in a instrument panel of a vehicle.

Twyford teaches an apparatus for mounting a computer inside a vehicle. The contraption itself includes mounting brackets attached to the vehicle 4 in which bar members are fixed to the mounting brackets. A display is attached to a crank arm and a keyboard is attached to an arm each of which are attached to the bar member affixed to the mounting bracket. Thus, the display is not mounted within an instrument panel of a vehicle and the operating means is not substantially flush with the instrument panel.

Therefore, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 15 and 21 are far distinguishable over the cited references. Further, dependent claims are also distinguishable in view of the cited references for the above reasons as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

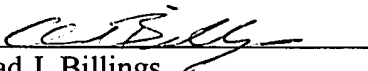
For at least the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-34 are distinguishable over the cited references. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings, Reg. No. 48,917 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 23, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Chad J. Billings

Registration No.: 48,917

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant